

THOMPSON COOLER ABOUT QUIGG TALE

May Not Fight Naming of
Hodge as Public Service
Member.

GRAND JURY INACTIVE

ALBANY, Jan. 5.—Eliot R. Brown, Republican leader of the State Senate, poured out upon the troubled Republican waters this afternoon, and the indications are that the last has been heard of Senator Thompson's charge that Gov. Whitman had been influenced in his selection of Henry W. Hodge as a member of the New York City Public Service Commission to succeed Robert Colgate Wood.

When Senator Thompson and Senator Lawson first reached the Capitol this morning they were still charging Quigg influence in the selection of Mr. Hodge, but later Senator Thompson had a long talk with Senator Brown.

"I have nothing against Mr. Hodge," said Senator Thompson after his talk with Senator Brown, "and perhaps if I had thought for a moment I might not have made the attack on Quigg, but as long as I have made it I will stand by it. Hodge's nomination, when it is received by the State Senate, will be referred to the Senate Finance Committee, and if he will make the right kind of a member of the Public Service Commission, as they say he will, he will be confirmed by the Senate."

"I have no quarrel with Gov. Whitman, but I have an interest in seeing that the right men are named on the New York City Public Service Commission, because I think my committee went down there to do more than fill three vacancies in the commission. My committee has been kicked about by every one ever since it was first appointed, and it was up to me to resent the suggestions in Wood's letter to the Governor that the committee had been unfair to him."

Governor Not Perturbed.

Gov. Whitman did not appear to be greatly disturbed over the charges made by Senator Thompson. The Governor took the stand that he knew what he was doing when he named Mr. Hodge, that it was distinctly a personal selection for the place and stories that Quigg had anything to do with the appointment were not to be permitted to interfere with the gratification Mr. Hodge's acceptance of the place gave to the Governor.

At noon the newspaper men told Gov. Whitman that Senator Lawson of Brooklyn had heralded the information that "a high class lawyer from Brooklyn" had given Senator Thompson and himself the information that Mr. Quigg brought Wood's resignation to Albany and had a hand in the selection of Mr. Hodge. Gov. Whitman smiled broadly when he heard this story and asked: "Did Senator Lawson give you the name of this 'high class lawyer from Brooklyn'?" He informed that Senator Lawson said the "high class" man's name was to be kept in confidence. Gov. Whitman smiled and suggested that no one need worry about it being kept quiet. "Because," said the Governor, "I don't believe any man could honestly make such a statement. There is no foundation whatever, absolutely none, in the story. Nobody but Mr. Wood's secretary, Mr. Archibald, brought that resignation to me. Mr. Hodge and I have been close personal friends for twenty years. He is the right man for this place and I am mighty glad he is going to accept it. A year ago I wanted him to come here and be State Superintendent of Public Works, but he declined on the ground that he could not afford it. I hope, in view of the little fuss made over his appointment to the commission, that he will not eventually conclude he can't afford to take this place."

Quigg Says He Didn't Know Hodge

Lemuel E. Quigg declared yesterday that he not only had had nothing to do with the resignation of Public Service Commissioner Wood and the appointment of Henry W. Hodge as his successor, but also that he was far too busy to concern himself with politics and politicians.

"I don't know Mr. Hodge," said Mr. Quigg most emphatically, "I never met him in my life. I know nothing about his business. I did not see him on New Year's eve and I did not take Commissioner Wood's resignation to the Governor. Neither am I attorney for Mr. Wood. I'm a busy lawyer and I haven't any time for politicians."

Mr. Hodge continued yesterday to be unconcerned as to what fight may be made on his appointment. He reiterated his assertion that he had accepted the place only because of his long standing friendship for Gov. Whitman and because of the attitude of the engineering profession toward accepting public office.

LIGHT ON QUIGG STORY.

Brooklynite Says He Told Senator

Lawson of Seeing Lawyer.

Amasa Thornton, who was reported to be the Brooklyn man who told members of the Thompson committee that Lemuel E. Quigg went to Albany to arrange with Gov. Whitman for the resignation of Public Service Commissioner Wood and the subsequent appointment of Henry W. Hodge, denied last night that he had told any member of the Thompson committee that Quigg had been at the Executive chamber.

Mr. Thornton, who is a Brooklyn attorney, was seen at his home, 1902 84th-street, Brooklyn. He said that what actually happened was that when he was in Albany Thursday night he saw Mr. Quigg at the New York Central station. He did not talk with Quigg, he said, nor did he see Quigg at the Executive chamber. He admitted that he had told Senator Lawson of Brooklyn, a member of the Thompson committee, that Wood had resigned and that Quigg had taken the resignation to Albany. This information which he admitted giving to Senator Lawson, Mr. Thornton said, was only a surmise and that he had since learned that Quigg did not take the Wood resignation to Albany.

BOTH HOUSES FLOODED FIRST DAY WITH BILLS

Assembly Will Tackle Big
Crop on Monday—Busy
Session Promised.

ONE FAILURE LAST YEAR

ALBANY, Jan. 5.—As usual at the first day's session of the Legislature, both houses were flooded with bills.

A bond issue of \$25,000,000 is provided for the elimination of grade crossings in the State in a bill introduced by Senator Charles O. Smith. The bill provides a referendum on the question.

Senator Walters of Syracuse proposed an amendment to the Constitution giving the Legislature the right to lease camps sites not exceeding one acre each to the same lessee in the forest preserve in a bill introduced in the Senate. It also provides for a State highway connecting Saranac Lake, Long Lake and Old Forge.

Bronx county is proposed to be included under the jurisdiction of the First District Public Service Commission in a bill introduced by Senator Boylan.

An amendment to the late Timothy D. Sullivan's concealed weapons law introduced by Senator Boylan would give persons in dwellings and places of business, furnishing proof of reasonable necessity for the same, the right to have firearms; also permitting bank messengers and similar employees of express companies to be armed without fear of violating the law.

Senator Gilchrist of Brooklyn introduced a bill establishing two platoon systems in the Fire Departments in each first class city of the State.

When the State Assembly was organized Speaker Sweet was warmly greeted when the formal result of the balloting declared him elected for the third consecutive time. The other nominees of last night's Republican caucus, Fred W. Hammond of Syracuse, clerk of the Assembly, and Harry W. Haines of Westchester, sergeant-at-arms, were chosen by a party vote. Joseph M. Callahan got the votes of the sixty-three Democratic members of the House for Speaker and he assumed for the first time his duties as minority leader.

Service Boards Slow, Change in Law Urged

Investigating Committee's
Counsel Says There Are
Too Many Delays.

ALBANY, Jan. 5.—The Public Service Commission's law must be amended so as to prevent long delays in the settlement of rate and service complaints, or to reimburse consumers of gas and electricity compelled to pay excessive charges over long periods Merton E. Lewis, counsel to the legislative investigating committee, declared to-night.

He pointed out that in New York city there are now complaints against charges of the Kings County Illuminating Company and the Brooklyn Edison Company which have been pending for the last five years.

Mr. Lewis said that the Thompson committee was now engaged in preparing amendments to the law for submission to the Legislature.

"The Public Service Commission's law has completely broken down," he said. "The investigation of the two commissions demonstrated this."

"One of the controlling reasons and one of the most convincing arguments for the creation of the Public Service Commissions as they now exist was that there should be in existence a tribunal or two tribunals to which complaints of excessive rates or inadequate service facilities might be made which tribunals should be invested with full authority and equipped with all the machinery necessary to enable the rendering of prompt decisions and the correction of abuses. The commissioners of Westchester county know how completely this law has been a failure."

"The law requires amendment in order that such abuses may not prevail in the future. This committee has uncovered these and other abuses. It will prepare and submit amendments for the consideration of the Legislature. Whether or not such amendments shall be incorporated into the law will depend upon the people themselves."

WOULD FORCE B. R. T. TO RUN EXTRA CARS

Health Commissioner Emerson Will Appeal to P. S. Commission.

Protests against Health Commissioner Haven Emerson's determination to force the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company into running more cars on four lines were made to the Commissioner by officials of the transit company who argued with him for two hours yesterday.

Representations that the lines are being operated to capacity were made by Vice-President S. W. Huff, B. A. Marsh, counsel for the corporation; William Siebert, superintendent of the surface lines, and John Wiegell, chief of the time table department. They declared that the Board of Health's "anti-crowding" regulation was being strictly observed on the Smith street, Graham avenue, Flatbush, Seventh avenue and Gates avenue divisions, though this compliance had inconvenienced many waiting travellers.

When Commissioner Emerson asked why extra rolling stock had not been bought he was told that no mandate to this effect had come from the Public Service Commission. In eighteen months, the traction managers contended, the new subway and elevated systems in Brooklyn will be completed and much of the present traffic will be diverted. Additional cars, it was said, would therefore become superfluous.

"Experience proves," replied Dr. Emerson, "that the demand for transportation facilities grows at a faster rate than the improvements."

CASSIDY'S FINE NOT PAID.

His and Willett's Must Be If They Are to Be Paroled.

ALBANY, Jan. 5.—John B. Riley, State Superintendent of Prisons, was informed to-day that in view of the likelihood of friends paying the fines of \$1,000 each in the cases of William Willett and Joseph Cassidy, those two present inmates of Comstock prison could have their cases considered by the parole board when it meets on January 10 and would be eligible for release.

While it is understood the fines will be paid no official information to that effect has reached the prison authorities. The terms of Willett and Cassidy expire on January 12 and the parole board can recommend their release at that time provided the fines have been paid.

WILD SPECULATION HALTED—RICHARDS

New York Banks' Prosperity
Has Just Begun, Says State
Superintendent.

ONE FAILURE LAST YEAR

ALBANY, Jan. 5.—Bankers of the State have a bright outlook, according to the annual report of Eugene Lamb Richards, Superintendent of the Banking Department. He says that the past year promises to be memorable in the financial history of the country, and continues:

"The strength and stability of the financial institutions of the State under existing laws as at present administered seem to be demonstrated by the fact that during the time of stress and strain not a single institution previously under the supervision of the department failed to respond to all demands legally made upon it or was compelled to close its doors, with the exception of a small one man bank in northern New York, having deposits of only \$55,357.87, which failed as the result of manipulation by its principal stockholder."

He says that the State institutions apparently have emerged from their period of trial with prospects of more successful operation and of greater usefulness and service to the agricultural, business and commercial interests of the State.

"The close of the fiscal year presented a complete antithesis to the beginning," Mr. Richards observes. "There was throughout the State as well as throughout the country a revival of business along practically all lines and the greatest optimism prevailed. The Stock Exchange had reopened and its daily transactions were making new records. In fact, owing to the great increase in the apparent value of certain stocks, formerly scarcely known, as a result of war orders there developed one of those wild speculations which usually result in equally violent collapse, but again the real conservatism and business foresight of the financial leaders of the State and nation were displayed in their control of conditions."

"Attention was forcibly called to the absolute impossibility of foreseeing all the possible results of the European cataclysm and various measures adopted to stem a speculation that threatened to become a mere gamble. As a result a halt seems to have been called upon undue speculation, and under wise and sane leadership the financial resources of the country and State are being marshaled to meet whatever emergencies the future may bring forth, to fortify and confirm the enviable position in the business and commerce of the world which the country has now attained, with the assured result of paving the way for future progress."

COMMITTEES NAMED BY SPEAKER SWEET

Makes Innovation by Doing So on Day of Organization.

ALBANY, Jan. 5.—An important innovation, the naming of the standing committees of the State Assembly on the same day that the House was organized, was made to-day by Speaker Sweet. Immediately after he was re-elected Speaker to-day he made his committee announcements. Usually the Legislature has taken a week's recess to permit the presiding officers in the Senate and Assembly time in which to make up the committee lists. The Senate committees hold over from last year.

The all important Rules Committee named by Speaker Sweet to-day comprises the Speaker himself, Assemblyman Adler of Monroe, Brereton of Warren, Moler of Seneca, Machoid of Jefferson (Republicans), and Callahan of the Bronx and Miller of Kings (Democrats). The chairmen of the Assembly committees are:

Ways and Means—Moler of Seneca. Judiciary—Knight of Wyoming. General Laws—Brennan of Kings. Codes—Allen of Kings. Railroads—Speaker of St. Lawrence. Electricity, Gas and Water—Baxter of Albany. Insurance—Coffee of Westchester. Internal Affairs—Wells of Genesee. Banks—Willsie of Cortland. Taxation and Retrenchment—Lefevre of Ulster. Public Education—Tallett of Madison. Agriculture—Grant of Lewis. Public Health—Seelye of Saratoga. Villages—Pratt of Washington. Canals—Arns of Sullivan. Excise—Murphy of Suffolk. Labor and Industries—Bowley of Niagara. Revision—Oldfield of Steuben.

TO INSTALL GOV. McCALL TO-DAY

Legislature in Bay State Faces Many Problems.

Boston, Jan. 5.—The Massachusetts Legislature convened to-day for its 137th session, and elected Henry G. Wells of Haverhill President of the Senate and Channing H. Cox Speaker of the House. Gov. Samuel W. McCall is to be inaugurated to-morrow.

Taxation problems will occupy much of the Legislature's time. A long and busy session is expected.

Conservation—Machoid of Jefferson.

Commerce and Navigation—Chase of Greene. Charitable and Religious Societies—Ellenbogen of New York. Penal Institutions—Quick of Broome. Military Affairs—Kincaid of Onondaga. Public Printing—Wilson of Wayne. Public Institutions—Miller of Erie. Claims—Perkins of New York. Soldiers' Homes—Cobridge of Herkimer. Privileges and Elections—Brereton of Warren. Rules—Sweet of Oswego. Social Welfare—McQuinn of Kings.

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